



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

July 25, 2005

In reply refer to: KEC

To: People Interested in the South Fork Flathead Watershed Westslope Cutthroat Trout Conservation Program

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has completed a final environmental impact statement (FEIS) for the proposed South Fork Flathead Watershed Westslope Cutthroat Trout Conservation Program. The purpose of this conservation program proposed by Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks is to preserve the genetic purity of westslope cutthroat trout populations in the South Fork of the Flathead River drainage. This program is part of the effort to mitigate for impacts to fisheries resulting from the construction and operation of Hungry Horse Dam.

The FEIS was prepared as an "abbreviated" FEIS pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's National Environmental Policy Act regulations because there have been no substantial changes to the proposed action, alternatives, or environmental analysis presented in the Draft EIS (DEIS), dated June 2004. The abbreviated FEIS includes the following:

- any changes made to the DEIS (see the Summary),
- comments received on the DEIS (see Chapter 1), and
- agency responses to these comments (see Table 1-2 in Chapter 1).

The FEIS should be used as a companion document to the DEIS, which contains the full text of the affected environment, environmental analyses, and appendices.

If you requested a copy of the FEIS, we have enclosed either a paper copy or a compact disk (CD). The CD contains the complete DEIS and FEIS in the following files:

Final EIS file (19 MB pdf) (July 2005)
Draft EIS Summary file (39 Kb pdf) (June 2004)
Draft EIS file (1.77MB pdf) (June 2004)

If you would like an additional copy of either the FEIS or the DEIS, please call our toll-free document request line: 1-800-622-4520. Leave a message naming this project and give your complete mailing address. Please specify which format you would like, either a paper copy of the FEIS (about 400 pages) or a CD of the entire document. All documents related to this project may also be viewed at our Web site at http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/South_Fork_Flathead.

Documents are also available for review at several libraries in Montana. A list of those libraries is at the end of this letter.

Next Steps

BPA's Administrator will make a decision about this project in August or September 2005 and document it in a record of decision (ROD). The ROD will state whether BPA will fund this project and, if so, which alternative will be implemented. The U.S. Forest Service will also issue a ROD because the proposed activities require a Forest Service decision. Additionally MFWP will issue a ROD as part of their compliance with the Montana Environmental Policy Act. Each agency will make their ROD available to the public. If decisions are made to proceed with the project, the project would be implemented in the fall of 2006.

For More Information

If you have questions, please call me at 503-230-5756, or send me an e-mail at caspierring@bpa.gov. Additional information about this project is available on our Web site at http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/South_Fork_Flathead.

Thank you for your interest.

/s/ Colleen Spiering

Colleen Spiering
Environmental Project Manager

Enclosure: (if requested)
Hard Copy or CD FEIS

Copies of the Draft and Final EISs can be reviewed at these Libraries:**Carroll College**

Corette Library
1601 North Benton Avenue
Helena, MT 59625

Flathead County Library

247 First Avenue East
Kalispell, Montana 59901

**Montana State University-Billings
Library**

1500 University Drive
Billings, MT 59101

Montana State University-Bozeman

Roland R. Renne Library
100 Paisley Court
Bozeman, MT 59717

Montana State University-Northern

Vande Bogart Library
300 West 13th Street
Havre, MT 59501

State of Montana

Natural Resource Information
System Library
1515 East 6th Avenue
Helena, Montana 59601-8206

State Law Library of Montana

215 North Sanders Street
Helena, MT 59620

University of Montana-Butte

Montana Tech Library
1300 West Park Street
Butte, MT 59701

University of Montana-Missoula

Mansfield Library
32 Campus Drive
Missoula, MT 59812